

DHSS GIS Unit Conducts GPS Training for Local Public Health Agency Staff

The Columbia/Boone County Health Department served as host for Global Positioning System (GPS) Training on July 12 - 13. Members of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services/ITSD GIS Unit conducted the training as part of the Local Emergency and Environmental Public Health Initiative. Twelve individuals from local public health agencies across the state attended the event.



Participants were introduced to basic GPS principles and the primary functions of the Garmin V GPS receiver on the first day. They also had an opportunity to complete several desktop exercises involving downloading and uploading data into the receivers.

The training moved to nearby Again Street Park on day two. Participants were divided into teams and given three scenarios involving data collection and navigation to waypoints. New skills for appending and manipulating data in Access, and for hyper-linking photographs in ArcView were also introduced.

The Local Emergency and Environmental Public Health Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Emergency Response GIS team and the Environmental Public Health Tracking team to build geospatial capacity at the local level.